

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 371 054

UD 029 884

AUTHOR Taylor, Denny; Dorsey-Gaines, Catherine
TITLE Growing Up Literate: Learning from Inner-City Families.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-435-08457-7
PUB DATE 88
NOTE 250p.
AVAILABLE FROM Heinemann, 361 Hanover Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801-3912 (\$18.95).
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Reports - Research/Technical (143)
EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Academic Achievement; *Black Youth; Elementary School Students; Elementary Secondary Education; Ethnography; *Family Influence; *Inner City; *Literacy; *Low Income Groups; Parent Child Relationship; Poverty; Reading Skills; Social Problems; Urban Schools; Writing Skills

ABSTRACT

Through a study of six-year-olds who were successfully becoming literate, this book explores literacy and literacy learning among poor Black urban families. The ethnographic approach examines the experiences of four families whose lives and aspirations make it clear that literacy is an integral part of the children's daily lives, and that the lives of the families transcend preconceived notions about how the poor behave. For these families in which the children were learning to read and write successfully, the parents' provision of a literate environment and their support of their children's education were balanced with the children's strong need to become independent survivors in a sometimes hostile world. An analysis of the types of reading and writing family members engage in serves to strengthen the argument that generalizations about these families are unjust. The survival of these families and the ways they provide for their children make clear the necessity of the involvement of schools in the real lives of their students, and the involvement of parents in the schools. An appendix discusses the conduct of ethnographic fieldwork, and a second contains the research plan. (Contains 90 references.) (SLD)

* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *

**THIS
DOCUMENT
NOT
AVAILABLE
FROM
EDRS**